

EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Gila River Indian Community, AZ

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the Gila River Indian Community for a Brownfields Pilot. The Gila River Indian Community is a federally recognized tribe located in southcentral Arizona. The reservation encompasses 640 square miles, spanning across both Maricopa and Pinal counties. The reservation is the fourth most populous Indian reservation in the United States, including approximately 21,000 tribal members. The tribal population currently experiences a 31 percent unemployment rate, with 22 percent of tribal members living below the poverty line.

The reservation is bordered to the north by the City of Phoenix and to the east by a significant growth corridor linking the City of Phoenix and the Town of Coolidge. The Pilot will target the Blackwater Industrial Park because of its proximity to this major growth corridor. The Blackwater Industrial Park has three abandoned sites—a former explosive manufacturing plant, a former furniture resin manufacturing plant, and a used tire storage facility—all of which are perceived to have environmental contamination.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Gila River Indian
Community, AZ

Date of Announcement:
May 2000

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Gila River Indian Community Pilot will target brownfields in the Blackwater Industrial Park site.

Contacts:

Gila River Indian Community	Regional Brownfields Team
Department of Environmental Quality	U.S. EPA - Region 9
(520) 562-2234, ext.222	(415) 744-2237

Visit the EPA Region 9 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/brown/index.html>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Pilot will be to help ensure that the Gila River Indian Community will be included within the area's broader economic growth initiatives. The Pilot will help prepare for the revitalization of the Blackwater Industrial Park. The project strategy centers on effectively combining the interests and resources of all parties to logically proceed from the presently unused or abandoned sites to offering the sites as locations for new businesses or other economic activities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as a part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments of brownfields within the Blackwater Industrial Park;
- Preparing a site restoration plan; and
- Conducting community involvement activities to develop possible reuse scenarios.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.